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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, healer of the wounds of sorrow, we pray today for those who mourn. Bless and sustain those in Great Britain, who recover from the insanity of senseless violence. Give the sunshine of hope to all who have endured the night of losing a loved one. Comfort military families who know the pain of the sound of silence and the empty chair.

Bring solace to those who weep because of lost opportunities and seasons of despair. Transform their sorrow into song, their darkness into light, and their sadness into joy.

Today, use our Senators to begin the process of creating a world where peace will reign. Hasten the day when tears will be no more, and the kingdoms of this world will become Your kingdom, as You rule forever and ever. We pray this in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators

permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we will begin consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. We have an agreement that all first-degree amendments to that bill will be filed by 4 p.m. this afternoon. That will allow both managers of the legislation to get a better understanding of how many issues and amendments are expected in relation to the Homeland Security measure.

As the majority leader announced prior to the recess, there will be a roll-call vote this afternoon at approximately 5:30. That vote is expected to be in relation to a resolution regarding the recent bombing in London.

We will have a busy stretch of activity over the next 3 weeks with many pressing legislative and executive items that must be completed prior to the August recess. I encourage Senators to make themselves available on Mondays and Fridays throughout the month as the majority leader will be using all available time to make progress on appropriations bills and other priorities.

I will have a statement in a few moments, but I yield the floor so the Democratic leader can make whatever observations he would like to make.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

PRESSING ISSUES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the distinguished majority whip, the assistant leader. I acknowledge we have a lot of work to do during this work period. I hope we can accomplish a great deal. We had a great couple of weeks right before we left. I hope the week off, the Fourth of July, was good for everyone. I know it was for me to get away from Washington and breathe some of that good desert air.

Sandra Day O'Connor retired just over a week ago. As the first woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice, she blazed a trail which I hope many will follow. She decided cases the old-fashioned way, based on law, not politics.

As a westerner, she brought to the Court a love of the land and an appreciation for individual rights. I salute the people of Arizona for giving us such a dedicated public servant, someone who served in the State of Arizona as a State legislator, a member of an intermediate court of appeals and, of course, an inspiring career as a Supreme Court Justice.

Now we have begun the process of finding her replacement. The Constitution gives the President and the Senate shared responsibility to fill this vacancy because a President may only act with the advice and consent of the Senate. I appreciate very much President Bush beginning this process of consultation the way he has. I will always be grateful for the private meeting he and I had prior to her retiring and the phone call he placed to me the day of her retirement.

It speaks volumes that his chief of staff, Andy Card, was calling various members of the Senate from Scotland. Harriet Myers called various members of the Senate. That is important. I appreciate it very much. In the days and weeks ahead, it is important that meaningful consultation continues. Together we can find someone who will bring the country together.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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